

MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

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Maritime Threat Advisory

There has been recent reporting that Al-Qaida is targeting the U.S. railway sector. Information from debriefings of Al-Qaida detainees as of mid-October indicates that the group has considered directly targeting U.S. passenger trains, possibly using operatives who have a western appearance. Additional information suggests operatives may try a variety of attack strategies, such as destroying key bridges and sections of track to cause derailments or targeting hazardous material containers. Recently captured Al-Qaida photographs of U.S. railroad engines, cars, and crossings heighten the intelligence community's concern of this threat.

The attack of the French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen and additional information from Al-Qaida detainees suggest plans exist to attack the global petroleum sector. According to this information, Al-Qaida plans to weaken the petroleum industry by conducting sea-based attacks against large oil tankers. Information also suggests that such attacks may be part of more extensive operations against port facilities and other energy related targets including oil facilities and nuclear power plants.

The U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) continues to receive general threat reporting on such sectors as financial institutions and other market related facilities, the airline and maritime industries and government facilities and installations.

Suspicious Activity Listing

The Captain of the Port of New Orleans requests the assistance of everyone in the maritime industry community in our war against terrorism. Currently, USCG personnel are fully engaged in the protection of our vital port assets and infrastructure. All masters, mates, pilots, deckhands, agents and dockworkers can serve as our “eyes and ears” in the field as you go about the normal business of the port. **Please review carefully the following list of suspicious activities and report them at once to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and to my staff at 504-589-6261.**

- **Suspicious activity around or near railway infrastructure**
- Unknown persons conducting any suspicious diving activity in the Mississippi River
- Unknown persons photographing waterfront facilities
- Unknown persons attempting to gain access to facilities
- Suspicious individuals establishing businesses or roadside food stands nearby facilities
- **Suspicious persons loitering on or around bridges or bridge structures**
- **Suspicious watercraft tied to bridge piers or supports**
- Suspicious VHF radio transmissions or communications with other vessels
- Lack of VHF communications from vessels transiting the river or offshore
- Suspicious vehicles on the levee or the levee batture
- Unknown persons near waterfront facilities for extended periods of time
- Vehicles with personnel in them loitering and perhaps taking photographs or drawing diagrams of facilities
- Unknown persons calling facilities or facility personnel to ascertain security, personnel, or standard operating procedures
- Small boats with personnel on board loitering near facilities or offshore platforms, perhaps taking photographs or drawing diagrams
- Small boats with personnel onboard loitering near tankers in transit, at anchor, or moored at petrochemical plants
- Suspicious general aviation aircraft operating nearby waterfront facilities or offshore platforms
- Any bomb threats to facilities or offshore platforms
- Unknown persons attempting to gain information about facilities by walking up to industry personnel or their families and engaging them in a conversation
- Suspicious vendors attempting to sell merchandise nearby facilities or to facility personnel
- Theft of company vehicles, company vehicle passes, company personnel identification, or personnel uniforms
- Theft of standard operating procedures documents
- Unknown of suspicious workmen trying to gain access to facilities to repair, replace, service, or install equipment
- Suspicious e-mails on the internet related to the maritime industry
- Suspicious package deliveries, or attempts to deliver packages that were not ordered by the facility
- Suspicious activity around containers at terminals
- Individuals proclaiming support for the terrorist activities that occurred on September 11, 2001
- Anti-American sentiments being expressed by crewmembers on commercial vessels
- Anti-American pamphlets posters, or other paraphernalia onboard commercial vessels
- **Any or all suspicious activity involving port infrastructures (bridges, locks, wharves, and facilities)**
- Small pleasure craft operated outside normally transited offshore routes
- Ships or larger vessels operated outside normally recognized safety fairways